

(19)



JAPANESE PATENT OFFICE

PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

(11) Publication number: **03271224 A**

(43) Date of publication of application: **03.12.91**

(51) Int. Cl.

A61K 31/58

C07J 17/00

C07J 71/00

(21) Application number: **02063985**

(22) Date of filing: **16.03.90**

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(54) **CARCINOSTATIC AGENT**

(57) Abstract:

PURPOSE: To obtain a carcinostatic agent, containing dioscin isolated from *Dioscorea tokoro* Makino of the family Dioscoreaceae as an active ingredient and having powerful inhibitory action on proliferation of cancerous cells with high safety.

CONSTITUTION: A carcinostatic agent containing 3-O-(2-O- α -L-rhamnopyranosyl-4-O- α -rhamnopyranosyl)- β -D-glucopyranosyl-diosgenin (dioscin) expressed by the formula as an active ingredient. The aforementioned compound is obtained by extracting *Dioscorea tokoro* Makino with water, ethanol or a mixed solvent of water and ethanol, concentrating the resultant extract solution, then purifying the residue by column chromatography in the normal phase system and column chromatography in the reverse phase system, further the column chromatography in the normal phase system and subsequently recrystallizing the prepared substance from methanol.

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